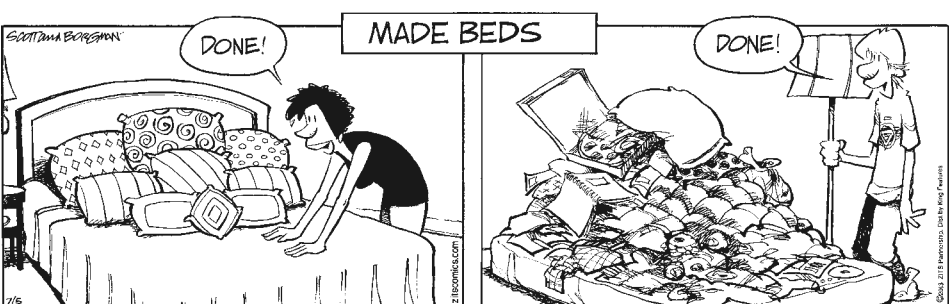


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



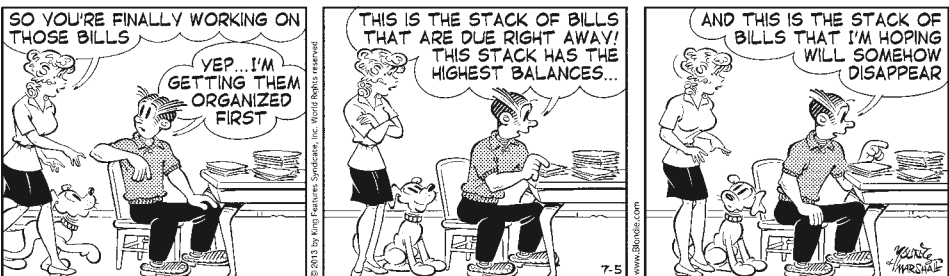
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



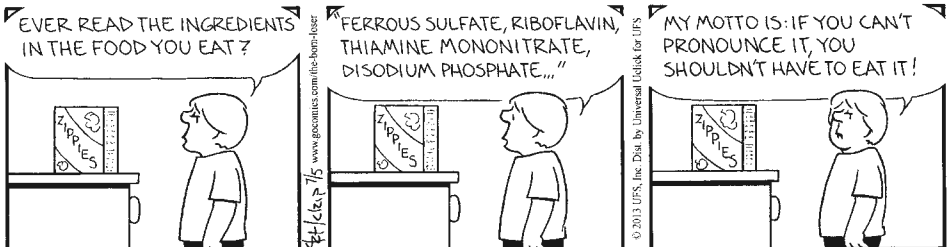
BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



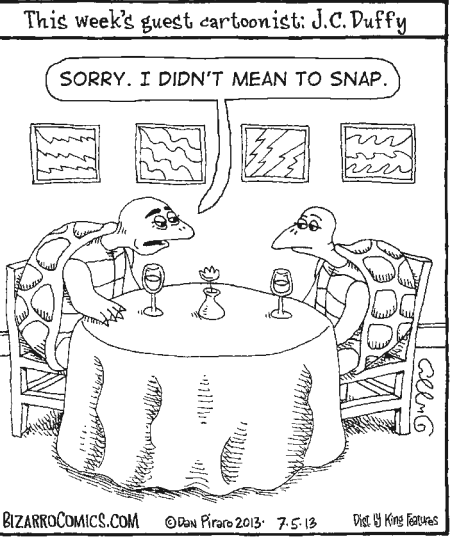
THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



Couple Shies From Sharing Facts Behind Twins' Birth

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are the proud parents of beautiful 4-year-old twins. After years of infertility, we found out that my husband has a low sperm count. Additionally, I have very few eggs. Ultimately, we conceived our miracles with IVF and the help of a sperm donor.

We do not want to keep this a secret from our children. We want them to eventually know, understand and be proud of the journey it took to bring them into this world. However, my husband and I are very private people. We understand that once the dialogue with our children begins, others will naturally find out.

My husband still feels very uncomfortable discussing his condition. How do we explain to our children, friends and family without becoming the focus of gossip and whispers? — PROUD PARENTS

DEAR PROUD PARENTS: Infertility among couples is no longer a deep, dark or shameful secret, and the fact that you needed help to have your children shouldn't generate gossip or whispers because, frankly, it isn't shocking or titillating anymore.

When your children are old enough to be told the facts of life, they can be told that they were conceived through in vitro fertilization. They do not have to be told every detail all at once. When they are older, they may ask questions about why it was necessary — and when they do, their questions should be answered honestly and in an age-appropriate manner.

DEAR ABBY: Last year I started dating the man I thought I would someday marry. We connected instantly and had a deep love for each other. We argued during most of our relationship, but strangely, never stopped feeling the way we did at the start. Our connection was undeniable and our love endless.

One night we got into a heated argument over "inappropriate" emails between him and an ex. The argument escalated and I was arrested. Worse than being in trouble with the law for the first time in my life was losing my other half.

Most people would say, "Walk away; you never belonged together." But I don't agree. I have never been in a relationship that had such highs and lows. I miss him and miss sharing my life with him. — CONFUSED AND HEARTBROKEN

DEAR CONFUSED AND HEARTBROKEN:

Whether you agree with "most people" or not, the most important person — the man you were involved with — no longer wants to be involved with you. As much as you cared for him, if he was sending "inappropriate" emails to an ex, it appears he was not equally devoted to you. The coup de grace was when you became so violent you were jailed.

You may miss what you thought you had with him, but what you need now is a therapist who can help you understand what a healthy relationship is all about, because this wasn't one. It's time to accept that this drama is over, because unless you do, you could be labeled a stalker and find yourself in even more trouble.

DEAR ABBY: I met this guy recently and I guess he's good-looking enough, but the thing is I really like his teeth. Like really, really like them for some reason. They're just so perfect, and I like the shape and everything.

The thing is, I've never actually paid that much attention to anyone else's teeth, just his. So does this count as a fetish or not? — AM I WEIRD?

DEAR AM I: No. If the only thing that attracted you about EVERY man you met was his teeth, you might have a tooth fetish. But because it's only this one set of choppers that turn you on, I wouldn't call that a fetish.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

EDITOR'S NOTE: Bigar's Stars is based on the degree of your sun at birth. The sign name is simply a label astrologers put on a set of degrees for convenience. For best results, readers should refer to the dates following each sign.

A baby born today has a Sun in Cancer and a Moon in Gemini.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, JULY 5, 2013:

This year you might be a lot more easygoing, but few people will notice. You will love your time alone and want more time to yourself. If you are single, someone will have to be very special for you to want to share your free time. You are entering the first year of a 12-year luck cycle. The first year is one of the luckier years. If you are attached, communication between you and your partner is exciting and creative. You have a great time together! GEMINI reads you cold.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19)

★★★★ You have a unique ability to know when to reverse course and head in a different direction. The problem lies in that others often are in shock when you decide to veer off on a new path. Realize what you want and what you expect from a situation. Tonight: Join friends.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ You'll want to move through a new idea and get to the other end quickly. For whatever reason, you could feel as if you must digest this information. However, you quickly might want to reverse directions. Tonight: Time for some indulgence and good times with friends.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You naturally take on the role of chief celebrator. Others want to stay close to you, as they assume that you know how to live life well. A friend might throw plans your way in a moment of chaos, but you'll see a way where everything can be done. Tonight: Be totally in the moment.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★ You know what is needed, but the opening to bring forth what is necessary might not present itself. Be more observant. You could be taken aback by an associate. This person's actions do not conform to your image of him or her. Tonight: Meet up with a special friend.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★★ Reach out to someone at a distance. Be more direct in your communication. Know what you want to achieve, and take the necessary steps to make it happen. What starts out as a formal meeting

dissolves into a colorful event. You like this turn of events. Tonight: Go with the flow.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ How you deal with a close family member could change. You are more relaxed than you have been in a while, even with a loved one creating some uproar. In fact, instead of being threatened, you become more and more amused. Tonight: Togetherness is the theme.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Defer to others, and make sure they know that you have had enough. You see events in a new light because of someone's unpredictability. Realize what is motivating you. You likely will feel as if you can't do anything more. Tonight: Try a new spot or a new type of happening.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ You might want to take in a different perspective than you have in the past. You know what is going on in a unique or difficult situation. A partner or close friend shares some important information that needs to be kept quiet. Tonight: Be a duo around town.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ You could find that an unexpected call or event throws your plans off. No matter how structured situations become, you must remain flexible. You are getting lessons in how to go with the flow and respond. The less structure, the better the outcome. Tonight: Where people are.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★ You might want to attempt a new approach or see a situation in a new light. You are able to work in less-than-perfect situations and not let it bother you. Honor a request from a friend or loved one. If you go with spontaneity, you can't go wrong. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ Hopefully you started the day early and have incorporated some fun people into your plans. Your schedule might take many unexpected turns, but you will like the excitement. Someone you meet in your day-to-day travels could shake up your life. Tonight: Play time.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ What you are sharing could cause a conflict at home or with a family member. You might feel as if you need a change of some kind. Be careful, as someone close to you could feel threatened. Use caution when dealing with your funds. Tonight: Try to make it an early night.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

